Malnourished children in the country

3944. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to UN Report, more than one third of malnourished children are in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to UN, at the current rate of progress, the milennium development goal to have abolition of child hunger by 2015 will not be realized till 2025; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition, No. 4, May, 2006", 39.04% of the underweight children under 5 years in the World are from India. Extent of malnutrition among children mentioned in this Report appears to be based on National Family Health Survey-2: (1998-1999).

(c) and (d) the Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations has laid down the reduction in prevalence of under-weight children (under 5 years of age) by half between 1990 and 2015. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) the extent of malnutrition among children under 3 years of age declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 47% in 1998-99. Third round of NFHS is currently underway. The current status of malnutrition will be known after the findings of NFHS-3 become available.

The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. Government of India is implementing through various Ministries/Departments, several programmes which, directly or indirectly, improve nutritional status of children. These programmes include:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welare);

(iii) National Nutritional Anemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(iv) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(v) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vi) Poverty Alleviation Programme, (Ministry of Rural Development);

(vii) National Programme for Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme), (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy);

(viii) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Department of Food & Consumer Affairs);

(ix) A Pilot project in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnent & nursing mothers, (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(x) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).

Implementation of protection of women against Domestic Violence Act

3945. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act recently passed by Parliament has come into force;

(b) if so, the names of State Governments which have started using the law;

(c) the number of investigations, inquiries made under the Act, Statewise; and

(d) the number of charge-sheets filed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND